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622 land. When a person is asked where he is from, he will often give the local name for his "and debber agar" of origin.

● 634 The çheqa shum, village headmen, are supervised by the district chief, "worāda shum", who is also appointed by the
625 governor. The district chief in turn appoints his own police, called "nāch lēbash" (lit. "thiefcathers in white"), who wear no special uniforms, merely the usual white togas, and carry rifles, in the use of which they are expert. They are used not only against petty thieves but against more dangerous bandits also. Their efficiency is commonly regarded as far superior to that of the uniformed urban police.

Usually there is one nāch lēbash per half-district ("meketl worāda") or two per district, unless an increase in banditry ("shifta") requires more.

651 Taxes, paid often in produce but increasingly in cash, are collected from each çheqa shum, but not by the district chief himself. For this task the governor has appointed a lieutenant, "mislanē", per district ("worāda"), who ranks equal with the worāda shum and expects aid from the latter. Usually the mislanē is a stranger to the district and himself a sort of glorified retainer and account-keeper from the court of the governor of the sub-province ("awraja") who has appointed him; while the district chief is a local man who may conspire with his village headman to keep local prosperity from the knowledge of the governor's central office. The latter therefore has to rely on the cleverness of his lieutenants, the "mislanē".

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651 The administrative pyramid rests squarely on the shoulders of the çheqa shum. He collects local dues for

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THE GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA

THREE LOCAL EXAMPLES OF TENURE

423 634 Three local examples will illustrate tenure. The first is from Gojjam under Ras Hailu.[1] The province was divided into fourteen districts. Most of these were in turn divided into two or three sub-districts. In each of the fourteen districts was a district governor (*abagaz*), who generally bore the title of *dejazmach*, and an assistant or deputy (*Mislané*). These men, appointed solely at the governor's will, were in general charge of the administration and jurisdiction of the district. Beside them functioned the *gulta gaji*, who was always a local man whose title was hereditary in certain families. He oversaw the collection of taxes, settled small cases between the *gabars*, and acted as liaison between the government and the people. He appointed as assistants a *chiqa-shum* for each village-group, an office which was held for a year and rotated among heads of families.

651 The list of the tributes paid to the various officials is very indefinite as to the amount and is of value only as indicating very generally the complexity of the system rather than the exact weight of the burden carried by the peasantry or the proportions taken by the different officers. Taxes and payments were divided as follows between the various authorities.

Government	Tithe in grain.
	Tax of $2 on each pair of oxen.
	afarsata fines.[2]
	Tax of $1 on each hut.
Abagaz (district governor)	Court Fees.
	Labour dues.
	Dues for use by men and cattle of warm mineral springs.
Mislané (deputy)	*Irbo* (a proportion of the government tax paid in kind).
	A proportion of the court fees paid to the *abagaz*.
	Labour dues.
Gulta gaji (hereditary chief)	A proportion of the grain crop of his district.
Chiqa-shum (village head)	His reward was exemption from taxation during year of office.[3]

[1] From information obtained locally by F. de Halpert. [2] See p. 149.

[3] It may be of some slight help in interpreting the money payments to note that the penal code of 1930 equates a quarter of a dollar with one day's work of an unskilled labourer. (Clause 6.)

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[For historical information on the region of Manz in Shoa Province, along with its succession of leaders, its warfare with the Galla, and internal strife, see category 175.]

Parish and Hamlet. The highland zones can be divided along three complementary social dimensions---political, ecclesiastical, and economic. Politically, the province is divided into awraja (sub-province), warada (district of a sub-province), and meketel warada (sub-district). The meketel warada consists of fifteen to thirty parishes (deber). The parish, in turn, is composed of three to ten hamlets (mender), each consisting of ten to fifty households (bet). Most households consist of husband, wife, unmarried sons, and pre-pubscent daughters[11]; a minority of households consist of aged spouses only, or of widowed individuals living by themselves. Characteristically, the households of a hamlet are dispersed, so that any one is perhaps 100 to 300 meters from its closest neighbors.

While officials of the provincial and sub-provincial governments are generally out-landers appointed by the central government, administrators of the warada and meketel warada are usually members of the local gentry. Within the parish, civil administration is in the hands of the ceka Sum, a petty administrator who imple-

[582] [591] 11 Since it is common for a girl to marry at 11 or 12, but to delay the virilocal move until age 15 or 16, the natal household may include a married daughter.